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REMARKS

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. Claims 2, 4-10, 12, 15, 16-27, 38, 43-45, and 48 have been amended. Claims 1 and 42 have been canceled. Claims 2-28 and 38-47 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in light of the remarks that follow.

1. Examiner Interview:

The applicant thanks the Examiner for the helpful interview held on November 16, 2004. In the interview, the independent claims were discussed, including claims 1, 28, 29, 41, 42, and 48. The Examiner indicated that claims 28, 39, and 41 are allowable over the prior art of record. The Examiner also indicated that claim 48 would be allowable over the prior art of record if it were amended to specify in paragraph (e) that the fine particles having increased total surface area are the collected fine particles. The Examiner said that she plans on searching the art again. In addition, the Examiner indicated that she believed that she would maintain her rejection of claims 1 and 42.

2. Amendments to the Claims

In response to the Examiner Interview, claims 1 and 42 have been canceled. Claim 48 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. The dependency of the claims that depended from either canceled claim 1 or 42 have been amended to depend from one of the other

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independent claims. Where necessary for proper antecedent basis, dependent claims using "mixed" or "mixing" have been amended to recite "integrated" or "integrating." All of the pending claims are now believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that claims 2-28 and 38-47 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 103 and each define patentable subject matter. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

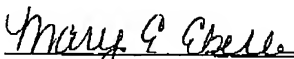
Authorization is given to charge \$55.00 to Deposit Account No. 23-2053 for the small entity fee for a one-month extension of time, which the Applicant hereby requests. No other fee is believed to be payable with this communication. Nevertheless, should the Examiner consider any other fees to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, the Director is authorized to direct payment of such fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-2053.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it would help expedite matters.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 6, 2004

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